

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend Claims 1 and 2, cancel claims 8, 9, 19-30 and 33-74, and add new claims 78-82.
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 1 (currently amended): An isolated nucleic acid encoding an ~~Sitosterolemia~~
2 ~~Susceptibility Gene (SSG)~~ ATP-binding cassette (ABC) family sterol transporter polypeptide,
3 said polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence that is at least 75% identical to the full-
4 length of an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:3, wherein said nucleic acid
5 hybridizes under stringent hybridization conditions comprising 50% formamide, 5x SSC, 1%
6 SDS at 65°C and wash conditions of 0.2x SSC, 0.1% SDS at 65°C to a nucleic acid comprising a
7 nucleotide sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:4, and wherein said amino acid sequence
8 comprises an ATP-binding cassette (ABC) family sterol transporter.

1 2 (currently amended): The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein said polypeptide
2 specifically binds to polyclonal antibodies generated against a polypeptide that comprises an
3 amino acid sequence ~~selected from the group consisting of as set forth in~~ SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID
4 NO:5 and SEQ ID NO:6.

1 3 (previously presented): The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein said polypeptide
2 comprises an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:3.

1 4 (original): The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein said polypeptide forms a dimer
2 with a second ABC polypeptide, and wherein said dimer exhibits sterol transport activity.

1 5 (original): The nucleic acid of claim 4, wherein said dimer is a heterodimer.

1 6 (original): The nucleic acid of claim 4, wherein said sterol is cholesterol.

1 7 (previously presented): The nucleic acid of claim 5, wherein said second ABC
2 polypeptide is ATP-Binding Cassette 8 (ABC8).

1 8-9 (canceled).

1 10 (previously presented): The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid
2 comprises a nucleotide sequence at least 80% identical to the full-length of a sequence as set
3 forth in SEQ ID NO:4.

1 11 (previously presented): The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid
2 comprises a nucleotide sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:4.

12 (canceled)

1 13 (original): The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid is from a
2 mouse or a human.

1 14 (original): The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid is expressed
2 in the intestine or in the liver in the presence of an LXR agonist.

1 15 (original): The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid is expressed
2 in a tissue selected from the group consisting of liver, jejunum, ileum, and duodenum.

16 (canceled)

1 17 (original): An expression cassette comprising the nucleic acid of claim 1
2 operably linked to a promoter.

1 18 (original): An isolated cell comprising the expression cassette of claim 17.

19-30 (canceled).

1 31. (original) A method of making an SSG polypeptide, the method comprising:

2 (i) introducing a nucleic acid of claim 1 into a host cell or cellular extract; and
3 (ii) incubating said host cell or cellular extract under conditions such that said
4 SSG polypeptide is expressed in the host cell or cellular extract.

1 32. (original) The method of claim 31, further comprising recovering the SSG
2 polypeptide from the host cell or cellular extract.

33-75 (canceled)

1 76 (previously presented): The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein said amino acid
2 sequence is at least about 90% identical to said amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:3.

1 77 (previously presented): The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein said amino acid
2 sequence is at least about 95% identical to said amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:3.

1 78 (new): The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein said amino acid sequence is at
2 least about 80% identical to said amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:3.

1 79 (new): The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein said amino acid sequence is at
2 least about 85% identical to said amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:3.

1 80 (new): The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid comprises a
2 nucleotide sequence at least 85% identical to the full-length of a sequence as set forth in SEQ ID
3 NO:4.

1 81 (new): The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid comprises a
2 nucleotide sequence at least 90% identical to the full-length of a sequence as set forth in SEQ ID
3 NO:4.

1 82 (new): The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid comprises a
2 nucleotide sequence at least 95% identical to the full-length of a sequence as set forth in SEQ ID
3 NO:4.

1 83 (new): An isolated nucleic acid encoding an ATP-binding cassette (ABC)
2 family sterol transporter polypeptide, wherein said polypeptide comprises an amino acid
3 sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:3.

1 84 (new): An isolated nucleic acid encoding an ATP-binding cassette (ABC)
2 family sterol transporter polypeptide, wherein said nucleic acid comprises a nucleotide sequence
3 as set forth in SEQ ID NO:4.